United Nations S/2017/237

Security Council

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English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 20 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith humanitarian and information bulletins from the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 15-20 March 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) P. **Ilichev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

17-04679 (E) 270317 270317

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Annex to the letter dated 20 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Humanitarian bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (15 March 2017)

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by the Russian Federation and international organizations

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has sent humanitarian convoys with United Nations cargoes to Madaya and Zabadani in Damascus governorate and to Kafr Haya and Fu'ah in Idlib governorate.

Russian airplanes parachuted 20.4 tons of humanitarian cargoes (food parcels) to the city of Dayr al-Zawr, which were received by the Syrian authorities through the United Nations.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (16 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, five ceasefire agreements have been signed with Akkari and Burj al-Maksur in Hama governorate, Ayn- Shiqaq in Ladhiqiyah governorate, Ghasm in Suwayda' governorate and Baath in Qunaytirah governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,353.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 is unchanged — it is still 135.

The number of populated areas which the Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) remains unchanged at 173.

Over the past 24 hours, government forces have gained control of 1.95 square kilometres. A total area of 3,168.7 square kilometres has been liberated since 1 January 2017.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime is 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported five violations in the following governorates: three in Damascus, one in Aleppo and one in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported 10 violations in the following governorates: 3 in Damascus, 3 in Dar'a, 2 in Aleppo, 1 in Hama and 1 in Idlib.

The Russian representative office has been unable to confirm the 10 violations during its investigations of the incidents.

Humanitarian bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (16 March 2017)

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by the Russian Federation and international organizations

The Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides carried out a humanitarian operation, during which 0.2 tons of medicines were delivered to Dahiyat al-Assad in Damascus governorate.

Russian airplanes parachuted 20.6 tons of humanitarian cargoes (food parcels) to the city of Dayr al-Zawr, which were received by the Syrian authorities through the United Nations.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (17 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, three ceasefire agreements have been signed with Basir and Qunayyah in Dar'a governorate and Bishakuh in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,356.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 is unchanged — it is still 135.

The number of populated areas which the Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has increased to 181.

Over the past 24 hours, government forces have gained control of 65.7 square kilometres. A total area of 3,234.4 square kilometres has been liberated since 1 January 2017.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime is 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported six violations in the following governorates: three in Damascus, one in Aleppo, one in Ladhiqiyah and one in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported 11 violations in the following governorates: 4 in Dar'a, 3 in Damascus, 2 in Hama, 1 in Homs and 1 in Idlib.

The Russian representative office has been unable to confirm the 11 violations during its investigations of the incidents.

Humanitarian bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (17 March 2017)

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by the Russian Federation

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out nine humanitarian operations in the following governorates: seven in Aleppo, one in Hama and one in Dar'a.

Residents of Qadi Askar, Ashrafiyah, Bisharah al-Khuri, Shaykh Sa'd, Hamdaniyah-4, Shaykh Maqsud and Halab al-Qadimah districts in Aleppo city and Ajami district of Aleppo governorate received 2.2 tons of bread, 3,000 portions of hot food and 300 food parcels. A further 650 food parcels were distributed to residents of Salamiyah in Hama governorate and Habib in Dar'a governorate.

Over the past 24 hours, 3,950 residents have received humanitarian assistance.

In total, 6.8 tons of humanitarian cargoes have been distributed to the population.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by international organizations

A humanitarian convoy of 21 refrigeration trucks and 1 tractor unit were sent from Ratma to Muta'iyah in Dar'a governorate with the assistance of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides.

Russian airplanes parachuted 20.6 tons of humanitarian cargoes (food parcels) to the city of Dayr al-Zawr, which were received by the Syrian authorities through the United Nations.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (18 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire regime agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 1,356.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 remains unchanged at 135.

The number of populated areas which Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since 1 January 2017 has increased to 185.

Over the past 24 hours, government forces have gained control of 48 square kilometres. A total area of 3,282.4 square kilometres has been liberated.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime is unchanged — it is still 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported three violations in Damascus governorate.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any violations.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (19 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, three ceasefire agreements have been signed with Jindiriyah in Ladhiqiyah governorate, Mazra'ah in Suwayda' governorate and Hadar in Qunaytirah governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,359.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 remains unchanged at 135.

The number of populated areas which Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since 1 January 2017 has increased to 187.

Over the past 24 hours, government forces have gained control of 15.5 square kilometres. A total area of 3,297.9 square kilometres has been liberated.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime remains unchanged at 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported four violations: three in Damascus governorate and one in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported eight violations of the consolidated agreement in the following governorates: three in Hama, two in Dar'a, one in Aleppo, one in Damascus and one in Ladhiqiyah.

The Russian representative office has been unable to confirm all eight violations during its investigations of the incidents.

Humanitarian bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (19 March 2017)

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by the Russian Federation

The Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides carried out seven humanitarian operations: six in Aleppo governorate and one in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

In Aleppo city, 1.2 tons of bread and 3,000 portions of hot food have been delivered over the past 24 hours to Aleppo University Hostel (Shahba' al-Qadimah district); to the Karm al-Qatirji School (Qadi Askar district), the Muhammed bin Jum'ah School (Firdaws district) and the Thawrah School (Sukkari district); and also to Shaykh Maqsud and Bustan al-Qasr districts.

Three hundred food parcels were distributed to residents in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

Over the past 24 hours, humanitarian assistance has been provided to 3,300 residents. In total, 2.7 tons of humanitarian cargoes have been distributed to the population.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by international organizations

Over the past 24 hours, the United Nations and partners have continued to provide food, medical, psychological and legal assistance to the Syrian Arab Republic. Work is also still under way to restore infrastructure and provide temporary accommodation to those in need.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (20 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, three ceasefire agreements have been signed with Dayrun and Ayn Tabarjah in Ladhiqiyah governorate, and with Atil in Suwayda' governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,362.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 remains unchanged at 135.

The number of populated areas which Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since 1 January 2017 has increased to 189.

Over the past 24 hours, government forces have gained control of 37.1 square kilometres. A total area of 3,335 square kilometres has been liberated.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime is unchanged — it is still 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported three violations in Damascus governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported 11 violations of the consolidated agreement in the following governorates: 3 in Hama, 2 in Aleppo, 2 in Damascus, 2 in Dar'a and 2 in Idlib.

The Russian representative office has been unable to confirm all 11 violations during its investigations of the incidents.

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Security Council

Distr.: General
22 March 2017
English
Original: French

Letter dated 6 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the memorandum submitted by the President of the Independent National Electoral Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the delegation of experts of the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) during its recent visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, from 7 to 10 February 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ignace **Gata Mavita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-04663 (E) 300317 310317

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Annex to the letter dated 6 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Memorandum submitted to the United Nations delegation responsible for the maintenance of peace and security during its visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 7 to 10 February 2017

Expression of gratitude

The Independent National Electoral Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is grateful to you for honouring it with your visit to its provincial office in North Kivu to discuss the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and our partnership.

Update on the electoral process

Since the Independent National Electoral Commission was established, it has worked with the United Nations, initially through the United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project to support the electoral cycle in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

That collaboration continues today through the Electoral Division of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), under Mr. Simon Pierre, and the UNDP project to support the electoral cycle, under Mr. Alain Ayakodoun.

In 2005 and 2006, the international community provided 90 per cent of the technical, logistical and financial support for the organization of the elections, but today the situation is the reverse. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is primarily responsible for organizing the elections.

Comparative tables showing United Nations and Government support in 2005-2006 and 2015-2017

Table 1
2005-2006

Partners	*Logistical support*	*Financial assistance (in United States dollars)*	*Technical assistance*	*Number of voters registered on the electoral rolls*
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4 helicopters	120 000 000	Personnel of the Democratic Republic of the Congo	
MONUC/European Union	24 helicopters 66 aircraft	470 000	132 experts	

Partners	*Logistical support*	*Financial assistance (in United States dollars)*	*Technical assistance*	*Number of voters registered on the electoral rolls*
Angola	5 helicopters			
Republic of the Congo	3 helicopters			
Republic of South Africa	8 aircraft	51 000 000 (second round)	27 experts	
				25 702 000

Table 2
2015-2017 (40 million voters expected)

Partners	*Logistical support*	*Financial assistance (in United States dollars)*	*Technical assistance*	*Observations*
Democratic Republic of the Congo	– 2 helicopters – 2 Boeings – 2 Antonovs – 97 vans – 50 trucks – 10 jeeps – Approximately 1,000 motorcycles – Approximately 1,000 bicycles – Small boats – Canoes – Skiffs	300,000,000	Independent National Electoral Commission staff	Same disbursement plan for 2017
United Nations and international community	– 16 helicopters – 2 Ilyushin aircraft – 2 Hercules aircraft	123,000,000 planned, but no funds have been allocated to the operational part. Instead, funds have been allocated to certain non-governmental organizations and churches, bypassing the UNDP project to support the electoral cycle.	72 technicians at head office and only 8 in the provinces, often without resources.	Lack of fuel and planning. Much pressure without the corresponding funding.

Comments

It will be noted that, compared to 2005, the United Nations and the international community as a whole have provided little financial or technical assistance and even less logistical support, although they are among those making the most demands of the Electoral Commission.

We would like to thank your team for visiting us and have the honour to transmit to you the following detailed information:

(a) In North Ubangi province, where the voter registration process was piloted, out of 20 lifts, the United Nations organized two full flights and one flight of 3 tons with a private aircraft, and thereby lost its credibility. MONUSCO was ill-prepared and hired trucks from private companies, thereby delaying the operation by two or three days in Businga, Yakoma and Bosobolo. Even aircraft belonging to Service Air and the Mission were not used until a little later;

(b) For areas of operation 1 and 2, MONUSCO was scheduled to transport 1,900 tons of equipment at the end of December 2016, but, because of a lack of fuel and planning (pilots disobeyed the orders of MONUSCO officials or took their orders from Goma rather than Kinshasa) the Mission had transported only 1,116 tons by 4 January 2017. Only the Electoral Commission transported everything assigned to it, in addition to over 600 tons that should have been transported by MONUSCO aircraft, for example in North Kivu. The details of the lifts are available from your office.

Aircraft of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including two military helicopters, have helped us cover the remaining provinces. The table below contains a number of examples.

Table 3

Date	*Province*	*Description of incident*	*Observations*
15 November 2016	Maniema, Kindu province	– Visit by the Vice-President of the Electoral Commission with more than 20 members of parliament from Maniema, South Kivu and North Kivu, and various members of the Commission – The aircraft that should have transported the equipment to Kindu went to Goma while the visiting group, including the governor and members of the provincial parliament, were at the airport. – After much pressure and the pilot's initial refusal to fly, the aircraft ultimately arrived at 3.50 p.m. local time.	Assessment Those responsible for the Integrated Electoral Support Group have no authority over their pilots and their plans change in response to the wishes of Goma, the logistics officer or the pilot.

Date	*Province*	*Description of incident*	*Observations*
22 December 2016 and January 2017	North Kivu (Goma) and South Kivu	Three meetings of the Electoral Commission and MONUSCO were held at MONUSCO headquarters. – Meeting with the Electoral Commission delegation – Meeting with President Corneille Nangaa, but none of the commitments made were fully honoured by MONUSCO in North Kivu	Assessment – The MONUSCO Head of Office did not know that the logistics officer was in Goma, even though the officer had been there for two months. – Contradiction between the logistics officer in the east and the one in North Kivu (lack of harmonization). – Delay in deployment – Eventually, the Electoral Commission hired trucks.
	North Kivu (Beni) and South Kivu (Bukavu)	Good collaboration between the Electoral Commission and MONUSCO, although much equipment was not transported.	The Electoral Commission was deployed by truck, by helicopter of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in other vehicles to Walikale, Masisi, Rutshuru, Lubero and, in South Kivu, Shabunda, Kilembwe, Mwenga, and Kabare.
13 to 19 December 2016	Équateur, Mongala, South Ubangi and Tshuapa	– The MONUSCO aircraft remained on the ground for 12 days without advising the Electoral Commission in Gemena and Mbandaka. As a result, the programme and the deployment were delayed. – What was unacceptable was the lie that, on the one hand, equipment needed before the aircraft could fly was missing and, on the other, that the fuel was in vehicles en route to Mbandaka, an enclave. Perhaps those vehicles were amphibious. – An Antonov aircraft from Goma ultimately took all the equipment stored in Kisangani to Boende for dispatching to Bokungu, Ikela and part of Djolu, where MONUSCO provided limited support.	– The Electoral Commission took responsibility by hiring trucks, small boats, canoes and motorcycles. – If our partners were cooperative, they would inform us of their difficulties in advance. – The problems were related to • planning • financing • insufficient staff.

Date	*Province*	*Description of incident*	*Observations*
	Kolwezi	– Trucks were hired by the President of the Electoral Commission, Corneille Nangaa. – Three trucks were hired for deployment to Nyunzu, Kongolo and Kabalo. – A vessel was hired for deployment to Moba. Poor planning Why deploy equipment for Pweto, Kapanga or Sandoa from Kamina rather than doing so more cheaply from Kolwezi or Lubumbashi?	– All that information was concealed from us before being revealed on the ground, even though we work in the same offices. – The integrated centre that we have in Kinshasa does not exist in the provinces. – Electoral Commission staff do not meet in the provinces or, in some cases, with MONUSCO or UNDP staff.

Other challenges

In addition to the logistical, financial and technical challenges, there are juridical and legal challenges, as the electoral law must be amended, and the courts responsible for resolving disputes at the local, municipal (administrative courts) and provincial (court of appeal) level have not been established or installed everywhere.

The vastness of the country is a major challenge: it is equal in area to Western Europe (Moscow-Paris or Lubumbashi-Johannesburg, or one quarter of the United States of America, without road or rail links).

In terms of security, despite the presence of MONUSCO, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Congolese National Police, the Democratic Republic of the Congo faces problems with the following armed groups:

- Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda
- Allied Democratic Forces — National Army for the Liberation of Uganda
- Lord's Resistance Army
- Refugees from seven of the nine neighbouring countries (all except Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania)
- Internal armed groups, especially in the eastern and central parts of the country, including:
  - Alliance des Patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain
  - Nyantura
  - Mai-Mai Mazembe
  - Mai Mai Gédéon
  - Mai-Mai Cheka
  - Mouvement du 23 mars (M23)

Please note that the Kamuina Nsapu phenomenon in Kasai contributed to the attack on five offices of the Electoral Commission, where we no longer conduct any activities.

The Mission's role is to contribute to peace and security, alongside the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Congolese National Police. We would like these phenomena to be eradicated and for the 123 million United States dollars to help us to secure the electoral process and be used for technical and logistical support.

Financial measures

The Democratic Republic of the Congo faces the economic and financial problem of falling prices of copper and oil. Despite the goodwill of the Electoral Commission and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the global crisis and the lack of support from the international community are not making the task any easier.

In 2005, the UNDP programme to support the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo took care of the security arrangements for the elections, payroll and especially the logistical aspect, through the European Union Police Mission in Kinshasa for the integrated police unit.

In addition to the issuance of "movement of personnel" forms, a Beechcraft aircraft was made available for Electoral Commission officials in 2005-2006 to enable members of the plenary to travel in the vast territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Relationship between the Government, the Electoral Commission, MONUSCO and the UNDP project to support the electoral cycle in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Despite these challenges, from a statistical perspective and in a period of one and a half months, we have registered over 12 million voters, 48 per cent of them women (20 times more than in Gabon, 6 times more than in the Republic of the Congo, 15 times more than in the Gambia and 2 times more than in Côte d'Ivoire) for the pilot province and the 12 provinces of areas of operation 1 and 2.

During the second half of February, we will begin training in areas of operation 3 and 4 (Tshopo, Bas-Uélé, Haut-Uélé, Kasai, Kasai Oriental, Kasai Central, Lomami and Sankuru), while in April, we will proceed to Kinshasa, Kongo Central and former Bandundu, as well as the diaspora, to complete the process on 31 July 2017.

Recommendations

(a) Continue the joint visits of MONUSCO and the UNDP project to support the electoral cycle in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Electoral Commission in order to understand the real situation on the ground and seek comprehensive solutions;

(b) Provide land, river and lake transport as an alternative to helicopters in case of the lack of fuel or other problems;

(c) Hire larger numbers of technical staff, as 8 individuals is not sufficient for 26 provinces;

(d) Decentralize the integrated Kinshasa group so that it can function and operate in the provinces, noting that the logistics at Goma make operations more complicated than at Kinshasa;

(e) Plan activities and finance operations through the UNDP project to support the electoral cycle;

(f) Plan the movement of aircraft to avoid inconsistent action by pilots, the Electoral Commission and MONUSCO officials;

(g) Finance operations through the Electoral Commission and UNDP project to support the electoral cycle instead of funding international development non-governmental organizations that are not accountable to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Electoral Commission or the project to support the electoral cycle. We need money to pay for the police, the ballot papers and boxes and polling booths, and not for development non-governmental organizations, that are not accountable to anyone and conduct programmes that are not concerted or coordinated, resulting in the duplication of activities observed on the ground;

(h) Involve Radio Okapi in communications aspects of the Electoral Commission's work;

(i) Avoid delays in the deployment of ballot papers, packages or ballot boxes on the day of voting, to avoid war breaking out because of poor planning or a fuel shortage;

(j) Train judges and build courts and tribunals for the resolution of electoral disputes, especially in the new provinces;

(k) Respond to the need to raise awareness, especially among women, who represent 48 per cent of registered voters.

Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen, by making use of this report you will have completed the role assigned to MONUSCO in its mandate, in accordance with resolution 2277 (2016) of the Security Council.

The Electoral Commission must be fully supported in its mandate so that it can carry out its mission, including the ongoing review of the electoral rolls.

Done at Kinshasa on 7 February 2017

For the President on mission,
Norbert **Basengezi Katintima**

United Nations S/2017/239

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 March 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 22 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith a table prepared by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) detailing the violations of the ceasefire by the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N) in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in the first half of March 2017.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

17-04660 (E) 270317

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 22 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Violations of the ceasefire by the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in the first half of March 2017

No.	*Date*	*State*	*Particulars*
1	1 March	Southern Kordofan	An SPLA-N force aboard four vehicles coming from the Angarto area attacked nomad settlements in the Addanbalo area, north-east of Omduwal, killing 15 head of cattle.
2	5 March	Blue Nile	An SPLA-N force coming from Malkan attacked nomads in the Mada area, 50 km south of the town of Wad Abok, injuring four herders and looting hundreds of head of cattle.
3	8 March	Southern Kordofan	An SPLA-N force coming from the Werni area attacked nomads in Fatashi, south-east of Werni, killing one herder and 10 head of camel. The attacking force withdrew toward Werni.
4	9 March	Southern Kordofan	An SPLA-N force attacked the Sudan Armed Forces in Almashaish, 4 km south-west of an SAF post. The attacking force withdrew toward Jebel Alakhwal.
5	10 March	Blue Nile	An SPLA-N force attacked an SAF convoy in the Torda area, 60 km south-west of El Damazeen, killing one soldier and injuring another and a civilian.
6	12 March	Southern Kordofan	An SPLA-N force coming from the Werni area attacked nomads in the Fatash area, 48 km south-east of Alliri, killing five herders and 80 head of camel. Six soldiers from SPLA-N were killed. The attacking force withdrew towards Werni.

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Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 22 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to convey to you the following information:

The air forces of the so-called coalition led by the United States of America committed yet another massacre when they bombed the Badiyah boarding school, which is located in the city of Mansurah in the western Raqqah countryside, killing more than 32 children and women, and wounding dozens of innocent Syrian civilians. The attack also destroyed the school, which was being used to house some 50 families that had been displaced from the Aleppo countryside, Raqqah and Tadmur (Palmyra).

This act of aggression is yet another in the series of "coalition" attacks against the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic and its territorial integrity under the pretext of "countering terrorism". Such attacks have compounded the efforts of terrorist organizations, such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Nusrah Front and associated individuals and entities, to spread chaos and wreak destruction. This "coalition", which was established without any coordination with the Syrian Government and outside the framework of the United Nations, and was not authorized by the Security Council, has massacred Syrians in various areas, including Manbij, Ghandurah, Tawkhan al-Kubra and Dabiq in the northern countryside of Aleppo; Albu Kamal and Jabal Thurdah in Dayr al-Zawr; and Hishah, Tabaqah and Mushayrifah in the countryside of Raqqah. Prior international coalition attacks have killed and injured hundreds of Syrians and caused substantial material damage to public and private property, infrastructure and service facilities, including schools, hospitals, bridges, dams, oil and gas fields, and power stations.

It is disappointing that the United Nations and the Security Council, in particular, have stood by silently and failed to condemn these crimes. They have also not demanded that the perpetrators halt such attacks and refrain from carrying out such attacks again, nor have they attempted to hold the perpetrators accountable.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to put an end to the massacres that this coalition has been committing and destruction that it has been causing. The Government reaffirms that

the actions of the "international coalition" are completely contrary to the professed desire of its members to combat terrorism and their supposed concern for the Syrian people and its prosperity and security. As we have stated in our previous letters to you, the attacks carried out by the "coalition" kill innocent Syrian civilians, destroy the capacities and achievements of the Syrian people and increase its suffering, and create a fertile ground for extremism and terrorism.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its conviction that prior coordination and complete cooperation with the Syrian Government are necessary elements of any sincere effort to counter terrorism, as are consolidating counter-terrorism efforts, addressing the issue of foreign terrorist fighters and implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 2253 (2015), which calls for the consolidation of efforts at all levels aimed at addressing the threat posed by terrorism to international peace and security, and at combating the financing of terrorism.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 22 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you that aircraft belonging to the so-called international coalition led by the United States of America bombarded the following facilities and infrastructure in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic:

- On 31 December 2016, aircraft struck the gas pipeline that runs between the Husayn north station and the northern gas plant in the central part of Tuwaynan, Raqqah governorate.
- On 5 January 2017, aircraft struck the Umar oil field and related installations, and an electrical power substation in Dayr al-Zawr governorate.
- On 16 and 22 January 2017, in Dayr al-Zawr governorate, aircraft struck the Conoco and Umar plants and the gas pipelines that run between them.

Repeated bombings by warplanes of the so-called international coalition led by the United States of America have caused severe material damage to and the near total destruction of some of those facilities. These enormous losses are another case in which oil and gas installations and sites, and much of their infrastructure, in the Syrian Arab Republic have been systematically targeted and comprehensively destroyed by air raids carried out by aircraft of the so-called international coalition.

The aerial bombardment carried out by aircraft of the so-called coalition under the pretext of countering terrorism has killed innocent Syrian civilians, destroyed infrastructure and installations and caused enormous financial losses, in excess of $10 billion, to the Syrian economy. The bombings have also cut off or limited the access of Syrian civilians to a number of services, most notably power, heating, transportation, food and medicine.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibilities and condemn these systematic acts of destruction and put an end to the damage and destruction being caused by this coalition. The Syrian Government once again stresses that any international efforts aimed at countering terrorism must, in the first place, be carried in cooperation with the Government and

in full compliance with the relevant Security Council resolution, particularly resolution 2253 (2015).

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.